

## **Philadelphia Deanery Report to the 2025 Diocesan Assembly**

Philadelphia Deanery of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania is comprised of nine parishes. All parishes are served by full-time clergy and have a full cycle of Liturgical services.

During the course of the year 2024, two parishes of our Deanery celebrated important milestones: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding. St. Stephen Cathedral celebrated the anniversary over the weekend of Oct. 4-6 with both Metropolitan Tikhon and Archbishop Mark presiding at the services. The celebration included the blessing of St. Michael's Chapel, which underwent significant renovations, and the singing of St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir. On Sat. Oct. 12, the community of St. Mark's Orthodox Church welcomed Archbishop Mark for their celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of their parish. As part of the celebration, His Eminence was presented with a hand-bound copy of the new translation of the Psalter made by a parishioner of St. Mark's, Sergei Arhipov.

During the time of Lent, the Clergy Brotherhood of Philadelphia held Mission Vespers services at two of the parishes of our Deanery: Sunday of Orthodoxy celebration was held at St. Stephen Cathedral, and the Vespers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent at Holy Trinity Church in Pottstown. St. Stephen Cathedral also hosted the service of Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday for the clergy and the faithful of our Deanery.

On Friday, Sept 20, there was also an Annual Two Holies and a Saint Golf Tournament with over \$6000 raised for the benefit of IOCC which helps the Ukrainian Orphanage in Uzhhorod.

At the beginning of 2025, the faithful of our parishes participated in the service of blessing of Delaware River on Sunday, Jan. 12. This was the first time we had a service of blessing of a river in the Philadelphia area since January 2020 and we hope that we will continue this yearly event without interruptions for many years to come.

Finally, it should be mentioned that St. Stephen Cathedral is again hosting the Diaconal Formation Program. This year's program started with 8 students from our Diocese participating in regular services and teaching sessions.

Respectfully Submitted

Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Dean of Philadelphia Deanery

**Parishes of the Philadelphia Deanery:**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, (Bethlehem, PA), Fr. Nikolai Breckenridge.

St. Mark's Orthodox Church, (Wrightstown, PA), Fr. Martin Browne.

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church, (Philadelphia, PA), Fr. Mark Kozak.

St. Stephen Orthodox Cathedral, (Philadelphia, PA), Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk.

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, (Coatesville, PA), Fr. Stephen Miller.

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, (Wilmington, DE), Fr. Silouan Burns.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, (Pottstown, PA), Fr. John Edward.

St. Herman of Alaska, (Gradyville, PA), Fr. John Perich.

Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring Mission, (Philadelphia, PA), Fr. Nikolai Gulin.